

Amendments to the Abstract

A replacement Abstract is attached

REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

Data from a host computer is buffered, transferred to a logical formatter, compressed and converted to a format suitable for storage on a magnetic tape before being arranged and written sequentially into a main buffer where parity bytes are added as each row of a dataset is written. A physical formatter takes the data sequentially from the main buffer and writes them as codeword quadsets in plural tape tracks. A determination of whether each codeword quadset is acceptably recorded is made by evaluating each codeword quadset for header and codeword quadset pair errors and combining the evaluations.